

Serial No. 09/668,219

- 2 -

Art Unit: 2667

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 57 are pending in this application. No amendments have been made.

Reconsideration and further examination is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1 – 57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andersson et al (US Pub No. 2002/0004843 A1) in view of Walia et al (US Patent No. 6,678,274 B1), hereinafter Andersson and Walia. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Applicants' Application was filed on September 22, 2000, and is therefore subject to the American Inventor's Protection Act of 1999 ("AIPA"). The Andersson reference has a priority filing date of July 5, 2000, and a publication date of January 10, 2002. The Andersson reference thus qualifies as prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). The Applicant states in the attached Statement of Common Ownership that the pending Application and the Andersson reference are owned by Nortel Networks Ltd., thus Andersson and the pending Application are commonly owned. Thus, in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 103(c) under AIPA, the Andersson reference cannot be applied in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). The Applicants therefore respectfully assert that this rejection is obviated.

The Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully

Serial No. 09/668,219

- 3 -

Art Unit: 2667

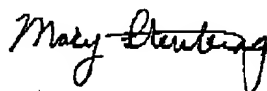
requested that the Examiner telephone Mary Steubing, Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-6664 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

5/19/2005

Date



Mary Steubing, Reg. No. 37,946
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
Steubing McGuinness & Manaras LLP
125 Nagog Park Drive
Acton, MA 01720
(978) 264-6664

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Serial No. 09/668,219

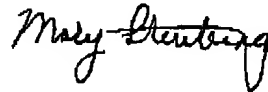
- 4 -

Art Unit: 2667

Statement of Common Ownership

The pending Application, Appl. No. 09/668,219 to Li, and the Patent Publication Pub. No. 2002/0004843 A1 to Andersson, were, at the time the invention of Application 09/668,219 was made, owned by Nortel Networks Limited, 380 St. Antoine Street West, 8th Floor, Montreal, Quebec H2Y 3Y4, Canada.

Respectfully Submitted,

5/19/2005

Date

Mary Steubing, Reg. No. 37,946
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
Steubing McGuinness & Manaras LLP
125 Nagog Park Drive
Acton, MA 01720
(978) 264-6664